

Message Text

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16

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 XMB-02 /020 W

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R 112105Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3386

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BPRO, BEXP, PMEP, BTIO, BBAK, DR

SUBJ: MUNICIPAL BUSES FOR SANTO DOMINGO

REF: A) SANTO DOMINGO 531 B) SANTO DOMINGO 851;(NOTAL)

C) USDOC 3084, (NOTAL)

STATE PASS EXIMBANK

1. THE CORPORACION DE TRANSPORTE COLECTIVO DE SANTO DOMINGO, THE QUASI-INDEPENDENT AGENCY WITHIN THE SANTO DOMINGO CITY GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL COORDINATE PURCHASE AND OPERATION OF A NEW FLEET OF CITY BUSES, WAS FORMALLY CONSTITUTED APRIL 8. THE CORPORACION IS HEADED BY SANTO DOMINGO MAYOR JUAN ESTRELLA AND INCLUDES WITHIN ITS GOVERNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, THE AYUNTAMIENTO (CITY GOVERNMENT), TAXICAB DRIVER'S SINDICATOS (UNIONS), THE VEHICLE IMPORTERS' ASSOCIATION, THE ASSOCIATION OF BUS OPERATORS, AND VARIOUS NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

2. ALTHOUGH THE EXACT MECHANISM BY WHICH THE BUSES WILL BE BOUGHT HAS NOT YET BEEN DEVELOPED, ESTRELLA APPARENTLY STILL INTENDS TO ALLOW THE POLITICALLY POTENT SINDICATOS TO BEAR THE ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR BUYING, MAINTAINING AND OPERATING THE VEHICLES. ESTRELLA ANNOUNCED THAT SOME 100 WOULD BE PURCHASED THIS YEAR.

3. ESTRELLA INDICATED PUBLICLY THAT HE HAS ALREADY RECEIVED

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OFFERS FOR FINANCING FROM VARIOUS COMPANIES. HE LATER TOLD

EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT HE WAS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN A PACKAGE PRESENTED BY MACY-CUTLER, WHICH HE SAID WAS A NEW YORK-BASED BANKING FIRM ASSOCIATED WITH MACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE AND WHICH HAD FINANCED VEHICLE SALES IN VENEZUELA. (USDOC MAY WISH TO CHECK FURTHER ON BACKGROUND OF THIS FIRM; SEE REFTELS B) AND C).)

4. ESTELLA ALSO REVEALED PRIVATELY THAT THE TWO MANUFACTURING FIRMS WHICH SEEMED TO OFFER THE MOST APPROPRIATE BUSES WERE BLUEBIRD (ALL US MADE) AND MACK (US CHASSIS AND ENGINE; BODY FROM VENEZUELA). HE INSISTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE ACTUAL DECISIONS WOULD BE MADE BY THE INDIVIDUAL SINDICATOS. HURWITCH

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